

Appl. No. : Unknown
Filed : Herewith

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

a2 5. (Amended) The bill acceptor of Claim 2, in which the receiving zone includes an indicator for indicating to a patron where the bill is to be inserted into the slot.

6. (Amended) The bill acceptor of Claim 5, in which the indicator comprises an array of illuminating elements arranged in the platen of the receiving zone.

a3 10. (Amended) The bill acceptor of Claim 1, in which, when the controller is connected to a network, a network monitoring system monitors the acceptance rate of bills by the controller and activates an alarm when the acceptance rate drops below the predetermined threshold.

a4 12. (Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising illuminating elements of the bill acceptor in a predetermined pattern and, when the bill acceptance rate drops below the threshold, energizing the illuminating elements in a second, different pattern, the second pattern of illumination of the illuminating elements serving as the annunciator.

a5 14. (Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising transmitting a signal on a network to which the gaming machine is connected to a network monitoring system to activate an alarm when the bill acceptance rate drops below the predetermined threshold.

Please add the following new Claims:

a6 15. (New) A gaming machine network comprising a plurality of gaming machines wherein each gaming machine includes a bill acceptor that has a receiving zone for receiving tendered bills and a sensing device in the receiving zone for sensing at least one characteristic of the tendered bills, wherein the gaming machine networks receives signals from the sensing device so as to be able to ascertain a bill acceptance rate.

16. (New) The gaming machine network of Claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of gaming machines includes a controller that is in communication with the sensing device and wherein the controller determines a bill acceptance rate of the tendered bills and communicates the bill acceptance rate to the gaming machine network.